

Two horrible and inhumane Murders done in Lincolneshire, by two *Husbands* upon their *Wives* : the one strangled his Wife in her sicknesse five and twenty yeares since, and not revealed til Nouember last:

The other having killed his Wife, made a great fire, and burnt her, which fact was done and reuealed in Iune

Anno Dom. 1604.

Thomas Cash. K

Iohn Dilworth.



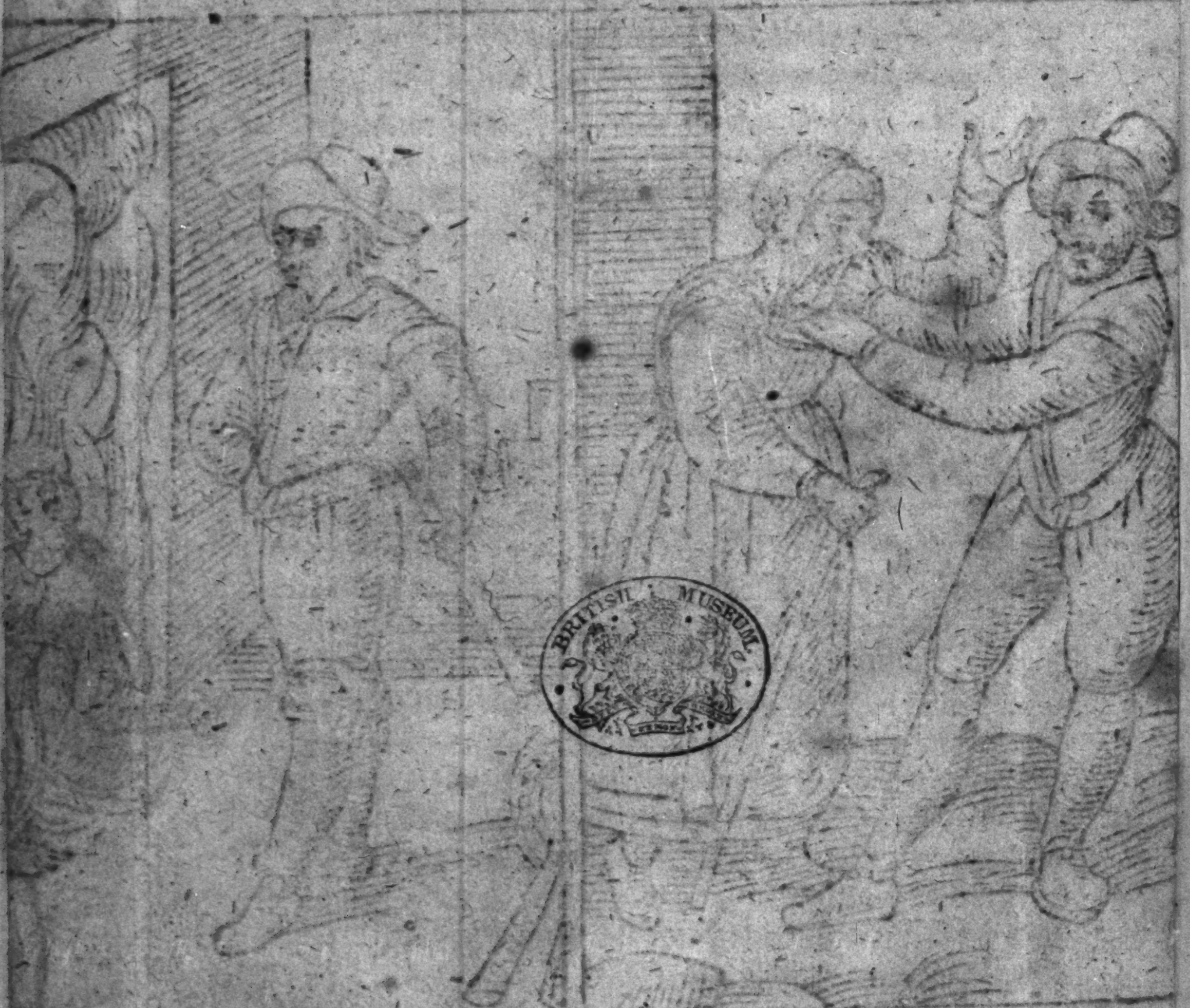
Printed at London for Iohn Wright, and are to be sold at his shop at Christ church doore. 1607.

Two horrible and inhuman murders
 committed by the same person upon the same night
 strangled his Wife in her Bedchamber
 and then murdered his Mother-in-Law

The other having killed his Wife, made a great fire
 which fact was done and revealed in June

John Dill

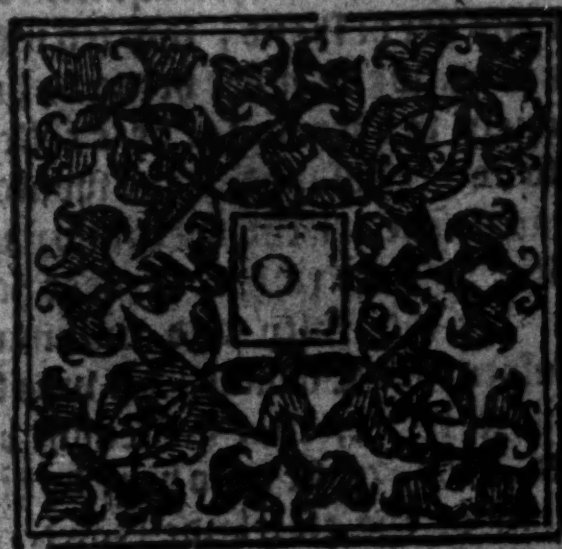
Thomas



Printed in London for John Dill at his Shop in Christ
 Church Lane 1697



A briele and true report of two
most crue, vnaturall, and inhumane
Murders, done in Lincolneshire, by two
Husbands ypon their Wiues: The one was per-
formed at a tounne called Howlton in the Moore 25.
yeares since, and not reuealed till Nonembris
last: And the other done and reuealed



if all the sinnes which
mankinde is subiect to,
(whenas the spirit and
grace of God hath left
him) there is none that
is more hatefull to our
Maker, than murder
is. And that doth ma-
nifestly appere by the
many and miraculous
meanes, whereby it
pleaseth him from time to time to reueale it, yea, euen
then when the doers by Adders therof think themselves
most secure, and when they themselves would haue
forgotten it, but that the prick and sting of conscience
doth neuer cease to put them in minde thereof, witness
this next succeeding Discourse, which is as true as it is
lamentable, in briele thus:

Two cruell Murders

In the County of Lincolne, there is a Towne called Howlton in the Moore, in which Towne dwelled a young man called Thomas Cash, by profession a Taylor, and a featherbeddyer. This Cash, was married to a young mayden called Ellen Greave, borne in Forkeshire, of very good parents. By this Ellen he had but onely one childe, for they lived very disquietly together. The reason whereof was (as is supposed) for that he kept (and as she thought) had the use of one Newtons wife, a neighbour of theirs. But he hath not yet confessed that, nor is there any manifest proofe of it, yet are the presumptions great, as you shall hereafter heare.

This Ellen Cash, wife of this Thomas Cash, what with the discontentment of her mind, which grew to now her suspicion: and, what with the disquietnesse that was betwene her and her husband, she fell into a long lingering sicknesse, which made her to be very troublesome, not onely to a servant of hers called Anne Pottes, but also to her husband, who should and indeede ought to have bene her chiefest comfort in the time of her sicknesse, and the rather, for that her mallady sprung from his disloyalty and unkindnesse, as is mightily suspected. But alas, he was so farre from being a comforte to her, that he sought by all the meanes he could, to be a crosse unto her, by his dayly using the company of the aforesaide Newtons wife, contrary to her minde: which, howe great a crosse and griefe that is to the heart and minde of an honest woman, that both leue and take delight in the onely company of her husband, I referre mee to all good wits.

This secret dislike which he had of his wife, and the great desire he had to be ridde of her, was not so close,
ly

done in Lincolnsheire

by carried, but that it was perceived by the aforesaid
Anne Porter their servant, who she rather sought to
sade his humour, and to crosse her, for that she had
some little hope to pꝛoue the wife to her Maister, if her
maister she had once hidden the world and
night in, still red she had a little, and in the night
she had a little, and in the night she had a little.

And therupon when she sawe him in his greatest
discontent, and alone, she would use these, or the like
wordes. This woman wareth every day more trouble,
some than other; and therefore I thinke it were well,
both for her selfe, and others, if she were out of the
world.

These wordes beinge often times by her unto
her maister. He began to thinke himselfe what
course he were best to take, to rid himselfe of her, that
was (as he thought) so great a trouble unto him. At
which time the Diuell failed not to fitt him with a di-
uillish deuise: for he reasoned thus within himselfe,
that if so he could take her life from her by some se-
cret meanes that should make no shew to the worlde,
her long and well knowne sicknesse should be a suffi-
cient cloake to cover the filthinesse of his more than
monstrous intended mischief.

And thereupon calling the aforesaid Anne Porter
then servant unto him, he tolde her, that to his great
griefe he well perceived howe troublesome his wife was
red, and howe little hope there was of her mending, or
ending: for, saide he, thus may she be these seauen
yeares, and be a continuall hourly trouble unto me,
except we take some course to pꝛeuent it, and there-
fore, if thou canst and wilt be secret, I can and will
sone finde the meanes to ridde me of this trouble.

brieve,

Two true Murtherers

by this, the promised secretie, and hee a speedy execution of his diuellish determination; which thus he effected. And so it came to passe, that one day, when his wife was newly cralled out of her wearisome bed, a little to refresh her selfe, and sitting by the fire, shee spake in kinde and louing manner vnto him for something shee had neede of, or for something shee had a minde vnto. At the Diuell growing great within him, and picking him for waies to performe his pretended murther, hee answered her very roughly saying, yea marry shall you, and therewithall, with his right hand he graspt her by the throat, and hauing in his left hand, a napkin, or some other cloth, with that he stopped her mouth, and in a short space, made her pass crying; for she was weeke and feeble, (though her long sickness) and no way able to make resistance against his barbarous crueltie.

When being thus bereaued of her breath, hee hastily called the forsworne Anne Dutton vnto him, and said, though long, yet now at last behold an end of our long continued trouble; therefore see thou as I wil, put on a shew of sorrow, and presently, whilst she is yet warme, call in some neighbours, and bring in some *Aqua vita* with you, which shee did, and all neighbours being come, they found him weeping and wringing of his hands with extreame sorrowe, as they thought. But if he wept, it was for sorrowe, and not for sorrowe, although hee regarded the coldness of his face, he neuer had so true a cause of sorrowe in all his life, as now hee had.

The neighbours hauing seen their best intentions, to helpe and recall her, that (alas) was past helpe, recalling

done in Lincolnshire

wealing; and finding all they did or could doe to be in
 vaine, they left her, and came to him; using the best
 words they could to dissuade him from the extreme
 griefe he seemed to take for her death. At length
 they prevailed, and he was comforted somewhat, and
 was able to be gone the next day. He was buried, and
 not any one suspected but that she died her natural
 death, and within a while after the aforesaid New-
 ton died; and then his Throthe Cough within the
 space of one halfe yere after the making away of his
 wife was married to the widow of the forsaide New-
 ton: which sodaine marriage did much strengthen
 and confirme the former suspicion. And thus
 they being thus married, in the hope which Anne
 Pottes had to be married to her Maister, she quite
 dashed, and she in a spleene would needs leave his ser-
 vice, yet durst she not reueale what had passed, because
 she had runne her selfe as deepe into the danger of her
 life, by concealing the fact, as her maister had done
 in doing it. After the maides departure, and his new marriage,
 he stayed there at Howson in the Moore some time
 yeares, in which time he was (as he hath confessed
 to Maister Geoffrey Harper, Constable, or keeper of
 Lincoln Castell) much tormented in conscience for
 that foule fact, and daily expected the indignation of
 God to light vpon him for it. And in soone for this reason
 sure he daily felt it. For the sight of the sunne in the
 which he bereaued his late wife of life, was such a tor-
 ment and torture to his minde, that he sought to ridde
 himselfe of it, by retreating his dwelling from thence
 to a towne called Long Darsbie, where he dwelled
 some eightene yeares, to which place likewise, the hea-
 ven and horrour of a guilty conscience keeled not to follow
 him,

Two cruell Murders

him, as he hath confessed diuers times to the Iozona
into Walter Harper. In this tyme died his second
wife, after he had bin married to her fourtene yeares.
Then remained he a widower some yeare and a halfe,
and was married to one Iennet Mowle, who is yet li-
uing, to whom he hath bin married nine yeares, and
hath had of her two children.

After he had dwelt eightene yeares in Long Oars-
ble, he removed to a towne called Middle Rayson,
where he dwelt at the time when he was apprehended
for his foule fact, which was in November last past,
one thousand six hundred and five, and it is since this
murder was committed, five and twenty yeares, or
there about. The manner how it was revealed, was
as followeth.

You shall hear how Anne Pottes, after she was
separated of her husband, the seruise of Thomas Cash,
yet called, what became of her for the most parte of
this time is not knowne, nor is it much materiall.
But questionlesse where soeuer she remained, she was
accompanied with a guiltie conscience, as plainly did
appeare in her sicknesses: for in November last, she
being resident in the parish of saint Leonards in Shor-
ditch, and falling sick unto the death, and her con-
science being clogged with the guilt of sinne, which
beare, how closely soeuer she had couered it (and howe
lightly soeuer she seemed to haue carried it) all this
while, her conscience being now wearied with the
weight of that guilt, would now no longer couer it: for
in this her sicknesses, she desired to haue some private
conferre with the minister of that parish: and he
being come unto her, to whom she related from point to
point this most lamentable Discourse.

done in Lincolnshire

He having heard and taken witnesse of her wordes, willed her to be well advised what she spake, feeling her how great a sinne it were, if she should accuse this of so heinous and hateful a crime as murder was, for some private hate or grudge of her owne, and the parties altogether guiltless thereof. But she still affirmed that to be true which she had tolde him, and seemed to be truly sorrowfull and penitent, not onely for concealing it so long, but chiefly, for that she had given her consent unto the doing of it at all, and for this and all the rest of her sinnes, she heartily begged forgiveness of God and the world.

The Minister seeing and hearing these true signes of her repentance, prayed for her, and pronounced to hir certaine comfortable places of scripture to assure hir of the remission of her sinnes through the mercy and merites of Christ Jesus, to whome having committed her, he left her, and shortly after she died. With these speeches of hers, Sir Richard Hamcotes (one of the Knights of the Bath, who was then high Sheriffe of Lincolnshire, (he being at that time resident in London,) was made acquainted, he immediately sent order downe for the apprehending of this Thomas Cuthbert who being apprehended, was had before Sir William Wray knight, one of the Kings Maiesties Iustices of the aforesaide Countie, who being accompanied at the time when the prisoner was brought with one maister Robert Turret, fell to examining of the prisoner concerning the fact, who presently confessed it before Sir William Wray, and the aforesaide maister Robert Turret. Whereupon a *Mittimus* was made, and hee sent to Lincolne Castell the foure and twentieth day of November last past, where yet hee remaineth, and so shall doe til the next Hilles (if God lend him life so long)

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and then what shall become of him may easely be imagined : In the meane time, let all good Christians that reade this shoyt and true discourse, pray to God, as I doe, and will, that wryte it, that it will please him to powze downe the grace of his holy spirite into the heart of this Cash the prisoner, that by the vertuous working thereof, hee may spend this long time which God hath lent him, in hearty sorrow and true repentance, both for this foule fact, which now in the fulnesse of time, when God had appoynted it, is made manifest to the worlde, as also for all his other sinnes and offences, which are best knowne

to God and his owne con-

science. Amen.



6 00 62

THE

Manner of the killing, and then
burning of Ione Dilworth, wife of
John Dilworth, which Murder was com-
mitted and done by the saide John in June
1604. at a Towne well knowne in
Lincolneshire called
Boorne.



In the foresaide county
of Lincolne, there is a
towne very well kno-
wen to many which is
called Borne. In this
towne dwelt a man of
a middle age some two
and fortie yeres olde,
or thereabouts, and
his name was John
Dilworth, who was
by his profession, a welthe-wright. This John Dil-
worth was married to a yong woman that lived in good
name, and in good report amongst her neighbours, yet
was she not unfurnished of that fault which is too com-
mon to many women, that is, she was milde and
gentle

Two cruell murders

gentle in all her speeches and gestures to her neighbors and strangers, but to her husband shee was an other manner of woman, for all, or the most parte of her words to him, were sharpe, bitter, and biting, especially when they were alone. But thus farre againe truly to excuse her, let me tel you, that the report of his life and behavioir was such, as being true, whereof I make no doubt nor question, it was able to make any woman to speake, although shee had but halfe a tongue, for hee was a great company keeper, and one that would not be perswaded to change his spending according to the proportion of his getting, but he would oftentimes suffer his wife and children to want that at home which hee spent, and might well have spared abroade.

And beside, he would oftentimes be over gone with drinke, at which times hee would not sticke (at his coming home) to beate and abuse his wife, rayling at her, reviling, and calling her by those names, which by the report of all her neighbours shee was well knowne. And all this was for no other cause, but for that shee did, and would reprove him in a more sharpe and discrete manner than hee could or would beare, for those things which all his neighbours sawe, and shee so well felt, were too much for him. Notwithstanding these great and open warres that were betwixt them, it should seeme they did at some times agree well enough together, for hee had three children by her.

But to my purpose, whyley is, bytesty and truly to set downe the manner of this cruell and inhumane murder.

The

done in Lincolnshire

The eldest of these three children before spoken of, was not above leaven yeares of age when this horrible booke was done. Which want of yeares in them, and the lacke of love and fatherly care which should have come in her husband unto them, made her (in the best sort she could) at all times to trouble the motherly love and care shee had to them, and of them: which love and care I am sure, is, or should be common to all mothers, except they doe so much degenerate, as this unkinde husband, and so unnatural father, being one might late abroad at the ale house (as his common course and custome was) little respecting or regarding the want of his wife and children (which fault & fear is too common which many careless men, their wives (soule) first gave them their supper with such qualities as God had lent her, then made them vnto ready, and had them to bed, knowing of them being not here when able to do it themselves.

Having layed them in their bed, like a slabe, leaving, and naturall nurse, she busied them, and blessed them, and so left them to their rest, where poore infants they were, and as shee, who little thinking that shee had taken her last farewell of them, and that shee should no more see them, or hear of them, was attending the continuing of her great sorrow, which continually came upon her almost halfe pinnell red of sin, and shee feeling how she was not very far from death, thought it was time for her to leave some wordes, (as shee had said) by telling him of her by being so much and grosse faulted, which was so much the greater and grosser, by how much shee made an ordinary use and custome of them.

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Had he bene throngly drunke, it had bene best
lesse for her to haue spoken to him, for she might as
soone haue quenched a great fire, by throwing oyle into
it, as to haue pacified him (being in that humour)
with any good persuasions. And in the morning when
he was a little sober, eyther he could not, or at the
leastwise would not remember any thing that he had
saide or done amisse ouer night, whenas he was
drunke, which made her to make vse of this time,
thinking it had bene her best time, but alas good wo-
man it proved quite contrary. For she having spo-
ken a long time, and very bitterly vnto him (as her
great griefe and greater cause did iustly dye her to
doe:) He looking sternely vpon her, tolled her once
or thrice to haue done, and to holde her tongue: but
this was not done by him with kinde and louing spee-
ches, as being sorry for his mistakes, but with very
rough commanding thyrates answerable to his
lookes, not remembering, that those which doe what
they should not, ought of duty to heare that they
should not.

While still continuing her sharpe reprehension,
he continually beate vppon his fist and gaue her such
a blow vnder the eare that therewith he forced her to
fall flat on the ground, and before she could come a-
gaine to her selfe, and recover breath to cry, or strength
to rise againe, hee tooke vp a staffe or spoke of a Carte
wheel, which alse was then to mure him, and hee
therewithall gaue her two most pinellish and deadly
blowes vpon her head, saying, now I haue thou
out yee not rising or scolding againe in haste.

Having thus cruelly taken from her, her deare
life,

done in Lincolnshire

life, and his hellish rage and ire being not as yet satisfied (he striving (as it seemed) to make himselfe a true picture or patterne of the very Diuell) he went strathwaies and made a very great fire with woodde and with turkes, and the sooner to hasten the burning of it, and the more to encrease the rage of it, he took a great many of chippes, which (his trade being a wheele-wright) did very easily afforde him. And hee having laide them on, and perceiving that the fire beganne to burne fiercely, hee like a terrible torturing tyrant, tooke uppe the dead carcase, and laide it thereon, clothes and all, not forgetting to hang uppe blankets and coverlids before the windows, to the end to hide the light this great fire did cast.

When he had thus done, thinking him selfe safe, and well, not repenting him any thing of this barbarous and inhumane deepe: Hee sat him downe, and sometimes hee would walke, and sometimes stand before the fire, as it were rejoycing at that his most hateful, horrible, and hellish fact, like a most gracelesse and merciless miscreant. But now the fire being quite burned out, and the carcase not yett wasted and consumed, he thought it not best to remove the fire, because the Cokes by their thir warning tolde him it drew nere to day. But as soon as the heate which the burnt fire had left, would suffer him, he dragged out the remainder of the burned body, and hid it under a great heape of thatch, where so: all that day it did remaine.

The time being now come, when these merciless (and now repentant) Deales were wont to rise, they holding the company of their kind helper (who was

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was wont to giue them as louing a good morrow as shee
had at her last parting, giuen them a kind good night
beganne to call and cry for her (not knowing the true
cause they had to do so) which the cruell father their fa-
ther hearing, he came in, and angerly chiding them,
for a while forced them to lie still. But at last hee tooke
them by, and in the best fashion he could, made them
ready, which as hee was doing, the two yongest af-
ter their pretty prattling manner, bid aske him for their
mother, and saide they would haue her come and giue
them some bread and butter: which wordes of theirs,
made him a little to relent, and to answer them a little
more kindly than vusually he was wont. But God
knowes, this humour held not long, for he had no so-
oner made them ready, giuen them their breakfast, and
set them downe to play, but hee strait wished that it
were night, that hee might finish the residue of his wic-
ked worke.

Right being come, hee made great haste to giue the
children their supper, and get them to bed, which be-
ing done, and they fast asleepe, (all which was not
long in doing) hee made an other fire greater than the
first: and when it burned to purpose, as hee thought,
he went and fetcht the rest or remainder of the burned
body, and threw it againe on the fire, forgetting, as al-
mighty God would haue it, to hang up the blankets
and coverles, which the night before he well remem-
bered.

The Watch of the Towne being now set, and sit-
ting not farre off from his house, they beganne to espie
a great light, and to scie an euill smell, which made
them diligently to seeke and search from whence it
would come: in short time they found it, and hearing
come

done in Lincolnshire

came to the doore, they knocked hastily thereat, but he would neither aunswere them, nor open the doore to them.

Now one of the watchmen hauing peeped in at the windowe, sawe him walking in the house, and ranne and tolde his fellows. Whereupon they brake open the doore, and came in vpon him, where seeing this pittifull spectacle, and assuring themselves it was a peece of some chystian creature: some of them that verie well knew his house, went in to seeke for his wife, and for his children. Hauing found the children, and not the mother. they came againe to him, and asked him for her: why there is all is left of her, saide hee, pointing to the fire. With that they layde handes on him, and bound him, and in the morning had him before Maister Iohn Taler the Coroner, to whom (being examined) he did not onely confesse the fact, and the manner of doing it, but in a gracelesse and godlesse sort iustified the doing thereof, saying hee had done God and the world good service, in sending so vnquiet a creature out of it. In briebe, hee was committed to the Castell the sixth day of June, in the yee of our Lord God euermaking, one thousand sixe hundred and foure, by the foresaide Coroner.

He remained in prison untill the next Hilles, which was at the beginning of the moneth of August then next following, in which space hee was visited by many poore men and women, diuines, and others. To all which, (notwithstanding the good exhortations and admonitions they gaue vnto him) hee remained still in one minde, still vsing his former wordes, that hee had done God good service, in sending so vnquiet a creature out of it. But at his triall, which was before Sir

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E. A. knight, it pleased God to giue him grace to looke into the foulenesse of his offence, and to aske forgiveness both of God and the world. Hee had his iudgement at Lincolne, and that was, to be had to Boorne where hee did the fact, there to be hanged at his owne doore untill he were dead, and then to be hanged in chaines in some conuenient place at the Sherriffes discretion.

¶ To the Reader.

NOW (gentle Reader,) hauing thus plainly and truly set downe these p^recedent lamentable discourses, there shall not neede (I hope) any paraphrase or apologie, because there is none so simple that can not shall reade it, but may easily vnderstand it: nor do I greatly care, if any be so badly minded, as to carpe at it, for if they doe, my good and honest meaning in publishing it, shall be a witness sufficient betwixt their consciences and mine, to excuse me, and accuse them. For I haue done it, onely for two especiall causes, the one is, to stoppe the mouthes of false reporters, and to make the truth of these monstrous misdoedes manifest to the world: the other is, to let wicked minded wretches (that plot or pretend any such mischievous practises) see, that God both can and will (in his good appoynted time) lay open to the sight of the world whatsoeuer they haue wickedly intended in their owne p^rimate thoughts.

Which being so, I hope there is none so godlesse or gracelesse, that will not certainly assure themselves, that hee will much more then punish a hatefull homicide that doth marre, massacre, or but dismember his owne Image, the chiefe master peece of all his workes.

There

done in Lincolnshire

Therefore since we daily doe, or may see, the great by desire that sathan hath to increase his kingdome, it shall be very needefull for vs to pray continually vnto God, to make vs both watchfull and warie, that we comenot within the Diuels clawes or claches: for if he see or perceiue any hatred, discontent, or disquietnes betwixt man and man, but especially betwene a man and his wife (which should be both as one) let vs assure our selues that he will not cease to set all his helhounds to worke, to make each slight occasion betwene them, a maine stepp to their downefall and deep destruction.

And therefore Husbands shall do well to haue a speciall care, that they giue not any iust cause of offence to their honest wiues: for if the hatred of a woman be once rooted in her heart, tis no way to be dissolued, but by death.

And for Wiues, they shall doe aswell, if in modest and milde manner, they obserue the humours of their husbandes (to whome they are tied by God, not for a day or two, or so long as they list, but for terme of life) not reprobuing them boldly or bitterly when they are very merrie, very melancholy, or before company, lest they dye them to vnmanly cruelty, which will (in time) proue hateful tyrannie. For, as husbandes are taught by the Apostle Paul, not to be bitter vnto their wiues: so are wiues likewise instructed by the selfesame Apostle to be louing and amiable to their husbands.

Which rules and directions, if husbands and wiues would follow, they might surely and safely ste clear from all such like faults as these, and many other that the Diuell doth daily tempt them vnto. Which gift

of grace God grant vnto vs all, euen

for his Christs sake,
Amen.

